

In the Claims

The status of claims in the case is as follows:

1 1. [Currently amended] Method for conducting
2 communications within collaboration space, comprising the
3 steps of:

4 organizing said collaboration space to include a place;

5 said place being implemented as a directory including
6 two databases, main database including an access
7 control list for specifying roles of users as managers,
8 authors or readers authorized to access said place, and
9 a names database specifying for said place those users
10 authorized to access said place; and

11 establishing synchronous communications as a chat
12 session between two or more parties visiting said place
13 who pass authentication with respect to said access
14 control list and said members list.

1 2. [Original] The method of claim 1, said collaboration
2 space being further organized according to an object model
3 including said place, and further including room, folder,
4 page, member, form, field, placetype, roomtype, skin, and
5 placebot objects.

1 3. [Original] The method of claim 1, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 presenting said collaboration space to each said party
4 at respective browsers;

5 displaying at said browsers a graphical user interface
6 including a chat window for presenting to each said
7 party the identity of other parties visiting said place
8 and selectors for requesting and accepting said
9 synchronous communications.

1 4. [Original] The method of claim 3, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 responsive to place manager input, selectively enabling

4 said synchronous communications.

1 5. [Original] The method of claim 3, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 displaying a chat session transcript in respective chat
4 windows to all parties participating in said chat
5 session.

1 6. [Original] The method of claim 3, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 responsive to party selection, selectively opening or
4 opening and minimizing said chat window, said chat
5 session including those parties which have opened or
6 opened and minimized said chat window.

1 7. [Currently amended] Method for communicating between
2 users in collaboration space, comprising the steps of:

3 establishing a place within said collaboration space

4 including two databases, a main database including an
5 access control list for specifying roles of users as
6 managers, authors or readers authorized to access said
7 place, and a names database specifying for said place
8 those users authorized as members to access said place;

9 [[and]] enabling a chat feature among members of said
10 place;

11 authenticating a user as a member in said names
12 database and as having a role in said access control
13 list; and

14 responsive to member selection, enabling a user who is
15 a member of said place to chat selectively with one
16 other member, a plurality of other members, or with all
17 members of said place who currently have an open chat
18 window.

1 8. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 displaying in a chat window of each member joining a

4 chat session for said place a transcript of said
5 session.

1 9. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 responsive to user selection at said chat window, for
4 said user selectively joining a chat session, sending a
5 chat message, replying to a chat message, leaving said
6 chat session, and extending a chat invitation to
7 another user.

1 10. [Original] The method of claim 7, further comprising
2 the step of opening said chat window to enable receipt of an
3 invitation to join a chat session.

1 11. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 displaying in said chat window a list of members
4 currently active in said place; and

5 sending a chat message to a member selected from said
6 list.

1 12. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 selecting from said list a plurality of members
4 currently active in said place; and

5 sending an invitation to join a chat session to said
6 plurality of members.

1 13. [Original] The method of claim 10, further comprising
2 the step responsive to receiving a chat message from a first
3 member of said place, communicating said chat message to all
4 members currently active in said place.

1 14. [Original] The method of claim 13, said members
2 currently active in said place being all members in said
3 list, and said chat message being displayed in a transcript

4 area of said chat window.

1 15. [Original] The method of claim 9, further comprising
2 the steps of:

3 displaying an invitation dialog box at the browser of a
4 member of said place receiving an invitation to join a
5 chat session;

6 said invitation dialog box providing buttons for user
7 selection to respond to said invitation to the sender
8 only, to join said chat session, or to decline said
9 invitation and close said dialog box.

1 16. [Original] The method of claim 15, further comprising
2 the step of:

3 providing at said browser a selectable control for
4 defining this user's availability state and toggling
5 off said chat feature to an awareness selector, said
6 awareness selector upon selection displaying said list.

1 17. [Original] The method of claim 16, said awareness
2 selector being reciprocal to prevent lurking.

1 18. [Original] The method of claim 17, further comprising
2 the step of maintaining said availability state persistent
3 across sessions.

1 19. [Original] The method of claim 18, further comprising
2 the step of loading a transcript of a prior session to said
3 chat window upon being opened.

1 20. [Original] System for synchronous communications
2 between users in collaboration space, comprising:

3 a server;

4 a plurality of browsers for presenting user interfaces
5 to a place in said collaboration space; said place
6 including two databases, a main database including an
7 access control list for specifying roles of users as
8 managers, authors or readers authorized to access said

9 place, and a names database specifying for said place
10 those users authorized as members to access said place;
11 and

12 said user interface including a chat window for
13 displaying messages and replies to messages as a
14 temporary transcript of a chat session among members of
15 said place authenticated with respect to said access
16 control list and said names database.

1 21. [Original] The system of claim 20, further comprising:

2 said user interface including a sidebar selector for
3 opening said chat session;

4 responsive to said selector, said chat window
5 displaying a list of members with open chat windows to
6 said place;

7 responsive to user selection of a selected member from
8 said list, establishing synchronous communications with
9 said selected member.

1 22. [Original] The system of claim 21, further comprising
2 a selector button for minimizing said chat window thereby
3 continuing said user as a member of said chat session while
4 clearing said user interface of said chat window.

1 23. [Original] The system of claim 22, further comprising
2 a chat button for opening said chat window to initiate a
3 chat session and receive invitations to join chat sessions.

1 24. [Original] The system of claim 23, further comprising
2 an option menu associated with said chat window for entering
3 invitations to a plurality of members selected from said
4 list to join a chat session.

1 25. [Original] The system of claim 24, further comprising
2 a secure message selector operable upon selection to prevent
3 interception of said messages and replies to messages.

1 26. [Currently amended] The system of claim 24, further
2 comprising:

3 an invitation dialog box for display ~~at the~~ at a
4 browser of a member of said place receiving an
5 invitation to join a chat session;

6 said invitation dialog box providing buttons for user
7 selection to respond to said invitation to the sender
8 only, to join said chat session, or to decline said
9 invitation and close said dialog box.

1 27. [Original] The system of claim 26, further comprising:

2 a user selectable control for defining this user's
3 availability state and toggling off said chat feature
4 to an awareness selector, said awareness selector upon
5 selection displaying said list.

1 28. [Original] The system of claim 27, said awareness
2 selector being reciprocal to prevent lurking.

1 29. [Original] The system of claim 27, said availability
2 state being persistent across sessions.

1 30. [Original] The system of claim 29, said chat window
2 further upon being opened loading a transcript of a prior
3 session.

1 31. [Original] A program storage device readable by a
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4 conducting communications within collaboration space, said
5 method steps comprising:

6 organizing said collaboration space to include a place
7 including two databases, a main database including an
8 access control list for specifying roles of users as
9 managers, authors or readers authorized to access said
10 place, and a names database specifying for said place
11 those users authorized as members to access said place;

12 said place being implemented as a directory; and

13 establishing synchronous communications as a chat
14 session between two or more parties visiting said place

15 who have been authenticated with reference to said
16 access control list and said names database.

1 32. [Original] A program storage device readable by a
2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions
3 executable by a machine to perform method steps for
4 conducting communications within collaboration space, said
5 method steps comprising:

6 establishing a place within said collaboration space
7 and enabling a chat feature among members of said
8 place; said place including two databases, a main
9 database including an access control list for
10 specifying roles of users as managers, authors or
11 readers authorized to access said place, and a names
12 database specifying for said place those users
13 authorized as members to access said place; and

14 responsive to member selection, enabling a user who is
15 a member of said place to chat selectively with one
16 other member, a plurality of other members, or with all
17 members of said place who currently have an open chat
18 window.

1 33. [Original] A computer program product or computer
2 program element for conducting communications within
3 collaboration space by organizing said collaboration space
4 to include a place comprising two databases, a main database
5 including an access control list for specifying roles of
6 users as managers, authors or readers authorized to access
7 said place, and a names database specifying for said place
8 those users authorized as members to access said place; said
9 place being implemented as a directory; and establishing
10 synchronous communications as a chat session between two or
11 more parties visiting said place.